

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 EA-06 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-06 CAB-02

CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 EB-07 INR-07 NSAE-00

FAA-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 /095 W

----- 100249

R 172133Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1359

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

USLO PEKING

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 18556

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORG, EAIR, ICAO, FR

SUBJ: ELECTION OF REPLACEMENT FOR ICAO COUNCIL

PRESIDENT

REF: STATE 161710

1. SUMMARY: GOF VIEWS SIMILAR TO OUR OWN RE
REPLACEMENT ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT. GOF AWARE OF
KOTAITE CANDIDACY ONLY AND FEELS MAY BE DIFFICULT
HEAD OFF HIS ELECTION. GOF AGREES REORGANIZATION
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AND ELECTION SHOULD BE KEPT SEPARATE. END SUMMARY.

2. PURSUANT REFTEL INSTRUCTION WE DISCUSSED QUESTION OF REPLACEMENT OF ICAO COUNCIL PRESIDENT WITH COPIN OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS SECTION OF FOREIGN MINISTRY. HE WELCOMED OUR INITIATIVE TO CONSULT ON THIS QUESTION AND AFTER HEARING USG VIEWS HE STATED THAT GOF THINKING AT THIS STAGE WAS VERY SIMILAR TO OUR OWN.

3. COPIN SAID THAT GOF ALSO ANXIOUS PRESERVE TECHNICAL, NON-CONTENTIOUS ROLE FOR ICAO AND AGREED THAT STABILITY IN TOP LEADERSHIP WAS IMPORTANT FACTOR CONTRIBUTING TO THAT END. GOF AS YET HAD NO CANDIDATE IN MIND TO REPLACE BINAGHI. COPIN AGREED THAT THERE WOULD BE MUCH MERIT IN HAVING KOTAITE STAY ON AS SECRETARY GENERAL AND THUS PROVIDE ELEMENT OF CONTINUITY IN THAT IMPORTANT POSITION. HOWEVER, KOTAITE HAD INFORMED COPIN A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO THAT HE WAS DEFINITELY A CANDIDATE FOR COUNCIL PRESIDENCY, WHICH IS THE ONLY CANDIDACY OF WHICH GOF IS YET AWARE. COPIN FELT THAT IT MIGHT THEREFORE BE DIFFICULT TO CURB KOTAITE'S ASPIRATION NOW THAT HE HAD DECLARED HIMSELF AND TO CONVINCE HIM THAT HE SHOULD REMAIN AS SECRETARY GENERAL. THIS BEING SAID, ADDED COPIN, KOTAITE WOULD NOT BE A BAD PRESIDENT. AS A LEBANESE CHRISTIAN HE WOULD CARRY WEIGHT WITH ARAB MEMBERS AND AT THE SAME TIME COULD AVOID BEING CAUGHT UP IN SECTARIAN STRIFE. HE COULD ALSO BE

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R 172133Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1360
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
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INFLUENTIAL IN KEEPING THE OTHER LDC MEMBER STATES IN
LINE, AND IN THIS CONNECTION COPIN GAVE MUCH CREDIT
TO KOTAITE FOR DEFT HANDLING OF SENEGALESE REP TO
ICAO IN HELPING ABORT LATTER'S PROPOSALS FOR ICAO
REFORM. KOTAITE HAD ALSO PLAYED USEFUL ROLE IN
ICAO DISCUSSIONS ON ANTI-HIJACKING MEASURES WHERE
HIS VIEWS, COPIN ADMITTED FRANKLY, HAD BEEN MUCH
CLOSER TO THOSE OF THE US THAN TO THOSE OF FRANCE.
IF KOTAITE WERE TO ADVANCE TO PRESIDENCY THEN
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COPIN AGREED WITH US THAT STRONG CANDIDATE HAD TO BE
FOUND TO SUCCEED HIM AS SECRETARY GENERAL BUT AS OF
THIS STAGE GOF HAD NO ONE IN MIND.

4. COPIN FORESAW ONE PROBLEM FOR KOTAITE, HOWEVER,
AND THAT WAS IF LEBANESE CANDIDATE WAS ELECTED HEAD
OF FAO THIS FALL. THERE MIGHT BE OBJECTIONS TO
LEBANON HOLDING THE PRESIDENCY OF TWO SPECIALIZED
AGENCIES.

5. COPIN EXPRESSED DOUBT ANY OF THE LARGER POWERS
COULD GAIN ELECTION TO COUNCIL PRESIDENCY FOR ONE OF
THEIR NATIONALS AND HE ASKED FOR OUR VIEWS THIS
SUBJECT. IN REPLY WE REITERATED THAT USG HAD NO
CANDIDATE IN MIND AT THIS TIME AND USG CONCERN WAS
LESS WITH PERSONALITIES THAN WITH EFFICACY OF ICAO
ORGANIZATION.

6. COPIN FULLY AGREED WITH US VIEW THAT ICAO REORGANIZATION SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN UP IN CONTEXT ELECTION QUESTION AND HE SAID THAT GOF WOULD OPPOSE THIS. HE SAID THAT PRC'S NON-ADHERENCE TO CHICAGO CONVENTION AND ITS POLICY ON OVERFLIGHT WOULD HARDLY WARRANT TAKING SERIOUSLY ANY PRC SUGGESTION FOR ICAO POLICY REVIEW. COPIN HAD NOT HEARD OF MOROCCAN INTEREST IN REORGANIZATION; HE DOUBTED THEY WOULD COME UP WITH ANYTHING VERY PROFOUND.
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